

Trash bag manufacturers can comply with the Recycled-Content Trash Bag Program in either of two ways. The first is to report that at least 10 percent by weight of the plastic used to manufacture regulated trash bags was actual postconsumer material (APCM). Regulated trash bags have a plastic thickness of 0.7 mil or greater. The second option is to report that at least 30 percent of the plastic used to manufacture all plastic products sold in California was APCM.

Manufacturers must submit certifications to the CIWMB by March 1 of each year. These manufacturers report the number of regulated trash bags made the previous year, tonnage of regulated trash bags for sale in California, and the tonnage of APCM in those trash bags. Each year by March 1, wholesalers report to the CIWMB the name and location of each manufacturer of regulated trash bags it purchased from.

Some of the numerous benefits of purchasing RCPs include the following:

Buying RCPs reduces waste going to landfills. Diverted landfill materials are the feedstock for making new RCPs, and they conserve landfill space while providing feedstock to manufacturers.

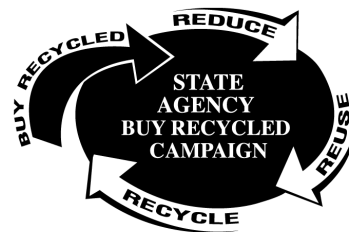
Buying RCPs reduces energy consumption, manufacturing waste, and pollution. In most cases, making products from recycled materials creates less air pollution, water pollution, and waste than making products from virgin materials. Using one ton of 100 percent recycled paper saves at least 4,100 kilowatts of energy, which is enough to power the average home for six months. It saves more than 7,000 gallons of water and keeps more than 60 pounds of pollution out of the air.

Buying RCPs creates economic incentives.

When you buy goods with recycled content, your purchases help to create a demand for materials collected in recycling programs. Recycling can frequently be the least expensive waste management method for cities and towns.

Buying RCPs creates jobs. The manufacturing process for recycled products creates far more jobs than landfills or incinerators.

Buying RCPs is required for every State and local government department, board, commission, and office. Many local governments must also comply with state regulations to meet their procurement requirements. For requirements and basics on operating a successful buy recycled program, go to: www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/.



California Integrated Waste Management Board

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Buy Recycled Section

Jerry Hart, Supervising Waste Management Specialist, jhart@ciwmb.ca.gov
(916) 341-6473

Judy Burns, Integrated Waste Management Specialist, jburns@ciwmb.ca.gov
(916) 341-6479

Rick Hicks, Integrated Waste Management Specialist, rhicks@ciwmb.ca.gov
(916) 341-6480

Marta Kravech, Integrated Waste Management Specialist, mkravech@ciwmb.ca.gov
(916) 341-6483

Kathy Marsh, Staff Services Analyst, kmarsh@ciwmb.ca.gov
(916) 341-6482

Allison Reynolds, Integrated Waste Management Specialist, areynold@ciwmb.ca.gov
(916) 341-6481

Amber Bullington, Student Assistant, abullington@ciwmb.ca.gov
(916) 341-6487

Patty Romine, Student Assistant, promine@ciwmb.ca.gov
(916) 341-6486

Visit our Web site at:

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/

CIWMB
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025
(916) 341-6000

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The Buy Recycled Program

The Buy Recycled Section



California
Integrated
Waste
Management
Board

This portion of the American River Bike Trail, near Goethe Park in Sacramento, was resurfaced with rubber-modified asphalt using more than 4,000 old tires.

The Buy Recycled section of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) manages the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC), the Recycled Content Newsprint Program, and the Recycled Content Trash Bag Program. It also promotes California’s State policy to “buy green.”

Staff of the Buy Recycled section assists State agencies, including the Department of General Services, local governments, and businesses in establishing practices for purchasing recycled-content products (RCP). Buy Recycled section staff provides a wide variety of assistance to promote RCP procurement, including:

- Presentations.
- Training.
- Sourcing RCPs.
- Providing the SABRC training manual.
- Certification guidelines for RCPs.
- Annual SABRC report assistance.
- Providing sample procurement policies and contract language.
- Assistance in reaching RCP procurement mandates.
- Supplying information on automated tracking mechanisms.

Buy Recycled Web Site

The CIWMB’s Buy Recycled Web site, at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/, contains definitions of terms, minimum content requirements, sample recycled-content certification forms, sample procurement policies, reporting forms, and a wealth of other information.

Recycled Product Database

Section staff also assists with the CIWMB’s recycled product database. This database contains more than 10,000 listings of RCPs from more than 2,000 suppliers. You can search fields by the product/brand name, the company, or any keyword of your choice. Access the database free of charge at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/RCP/.

The SABRC

The State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC) is a joint effort between the CIWMB and the Department of General Services to implement State law. Public Contract Code (PCC) sections 12200–12320 require State agencies and the Legislature to purchase RCPs instead of non-RCPs. The campaign complements the efforts of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, Sher, Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989), enacted to reduce the amount of waste going to California’s landfills.

The PCC also requires State agencies to ensure that at least 50 percent of the total dollar amount of purchases made within each of the 11 product categories are spent on RCPs (see table, upper right). Furthermore, State agencies are required to identify and track all reportable purchases for inclusion in their annual SABRC procurement report. Finally, product suppliers are required to certify the recycled content, both secondary and postconsumer material, in all products offered or sold to the State.

**SABRC
Reportable
Products,
Recycled-
Content
Requirements,
and
Procurement
Mandates**

PRODUCT CATEGORIES	CONTENT REQUIREMENT (%)	PROCUREMENT MANDATES (%)
Printing & writing paper	30% Postconsumer (PC)	25%
Paper products	50% Total Recycled Content (TRC) 10%(PC)	50%
Plastic products	50% TRC 10% PC	50%
Glass products	50% TRC 10% PC	50%
Compost and co-compost	50% TRC 10% PC	50%
Paint	50% TRC 10% PC	50%
Solvents	50% TRC 10% PC	50%
Tires	50% TRC 10% PC	50%
Tire-derived products	50% PC	50%
Lubricating oils	50% TRC 10% PC	50%
Steel	25% TRC 10% PC	50%

Recycled-Content Newsprint Program

California’s newsprint law, Public Resources Code (PRC) sections 42750–42791, mandates the use of specified amounts of recycled-content newsprint (RCN) by California printers and publishers. The Legislature established this program to foster markets for recycled postconsumer newsprint.

Newsprint printers and publishers must use RCN, defined by law as containing a minimum of 40 percent postconsumer paper fiber. Each printer and publisher in California must ensure that at least 50 percent of newsprint used is RCN. By March 1 of each year, newsprint consumers certify their total newsprint use and their RCN use.

In addition, newsprint manufacturers must submit annual certifications by March 1 of each year.

These certifications report the amount of deinked pulp the manufacturers received or produced, depending upon the type of facility they have. Manufacturers must also report the amount of RCN their company shipped into the state.

Recycled-Content Trash Bag Program

California’s trash bag law, PRC sections 42290–42297, require trash bag manufacturers to use a specified amount of postconsumer resin to produce the products sold in California. The Legislature developed this program to cultivate markets for recycled postconsumer film and other polyethylene plastics.